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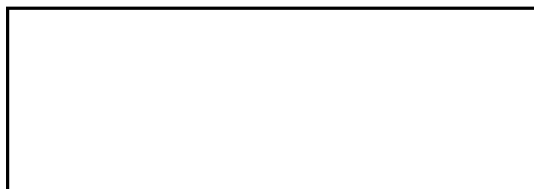
CODIB-D 113/4.9
3 March 1968

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: CODIB Members

SUBJECT: Report of CODIB Panel on Files For Use in COINS

The attached Report of the CODIB Panel on Files For Use in COINS is on the agenda for discussion at the CODIB meeting on 13 March.



Executive Secretary

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CODIS-D-113/4.9

**UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION**

**Report of the CODIS Panel on Files
For Use in COINS**

8 March 1968

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CODIB-D-113/4.9
8 March 1968

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD
COMMITTEE ON DOCUMENTATION

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Committee on Documentation

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Report

**Transmitted herewith is the Report of the CODIB Panel
on Files for use in COINS.**



Chairman

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CODIB-D-113/4.9
3 March 1968

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I. Introduction.

A. The agencies participating in the Community On-Line Intelligence System (COINS) had previously agreed to make 21 files available for inclusion in the COINS Experiment (14 from DIA, 3 from CIA and 4 from NSA). 1/

Considerable concern has been expressed regarding the utility of some of these files. Some have felt that other files would be more useful than those nominated. Others have felt that the purpose of the experiment could be achieved by a smaller set of files, each of which would be useful to analysts in at least two of the participating agencies, and which collectively would test the feasibility and utility of COINS. Still others have expressed the feeling that the files initially selected should comprise a single subject of interagency interest and that all of the pertinent files on the subject should be included in the system.

B. In order to resolve these and other questions, CODIB established a Panel on Files for Use in COINS with the following objective: "To select files for the COINS Experiment and recommend criteria for selecting and approving files for COINS in the future." 2/ This is its report.

II. Criteria for Selecting Files for COINS Experiment.

A. The Panel noted that the technical feasibility of the COINS Experiment could probably be tested without using live intelligence files. A meaningful test of utility and value, however, could be made only with live files useful to analysts in more than one agency. The Panel felt that the quality of the files selected for the experiment was far more important than the quantity, and for that reason agreed tentatively to limit the number to approximately ten.

B. The Panel understands that DIA had committed fourteen files to COINS principally because they were already scheduled for inclusion in the on-line system to the DIA Warning Center and thus available for interrogation through the COINS network in any event. The Panel felt, however, that it should not be unduly influenced by availability but should instead select the minimum number of files thought necessary to get a good sample and to permit a proper evaluation of the experiment. This would not preclude the subsequent

1/ CODIB-D-113/4.6, 30 September 1967, COINS Semi-Annual Report.
2/ CODIB-D 113/4.7, Terms of Reference (See Attachment 2).

selection of additional files.

1. The Panel agreed on the following criteria for the initial selection of files for the COINS Experiment. They are not necessarily listed in order of priority or importance:

1. The files should contain substantive information, and not merely processing techniques, parameters, or definitions.

2. The files should be of interest to analysts in more than one participating agency.

3. The files should get reasonably heavy use.

4. The files should be active, i.e., require frequent updating.

5. The files should be available in machine-readable form by the time the COINS network is activated (about 15 April 1968).

6. The files should contain sufficient data elements to permit a considerable degree of manipulation.

7. The files should be reasonably complementary.

8. Priority should be given to files [redacted] in view of PFIAB Recommendation No. 2 of 15 June 1965.

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III. File Selection.

A. The Panel examined all of the twenty-one files previously nominated or committed to COINS. In addition, each representative reviewed against the above criteria the available files held by his agency and several additional files were offered for consideration. Some of the members nominated subjects for consideration in the hope that some agency might possess files that would meet their requirements.

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B. The Chairman of the National Imagery Data Base Working Group (NIDBWG) was consulted regarding files being developed as a result of the recommendations in the JIIRG Report. Of the six files proposed for the NIDB, only two will be available in machine language

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by 15 April. The classification of both is such that they cannot be included until a certified method is devised to prevent unauthorized access. Furthermore, the Panel felt that the two files did not meet the criteria specified above for files to be included in the COINS Experiment. As directed in the JIIRG report, these and other NIDS files should be considered for later addition to the COINS Experiment when the security problem is solved.

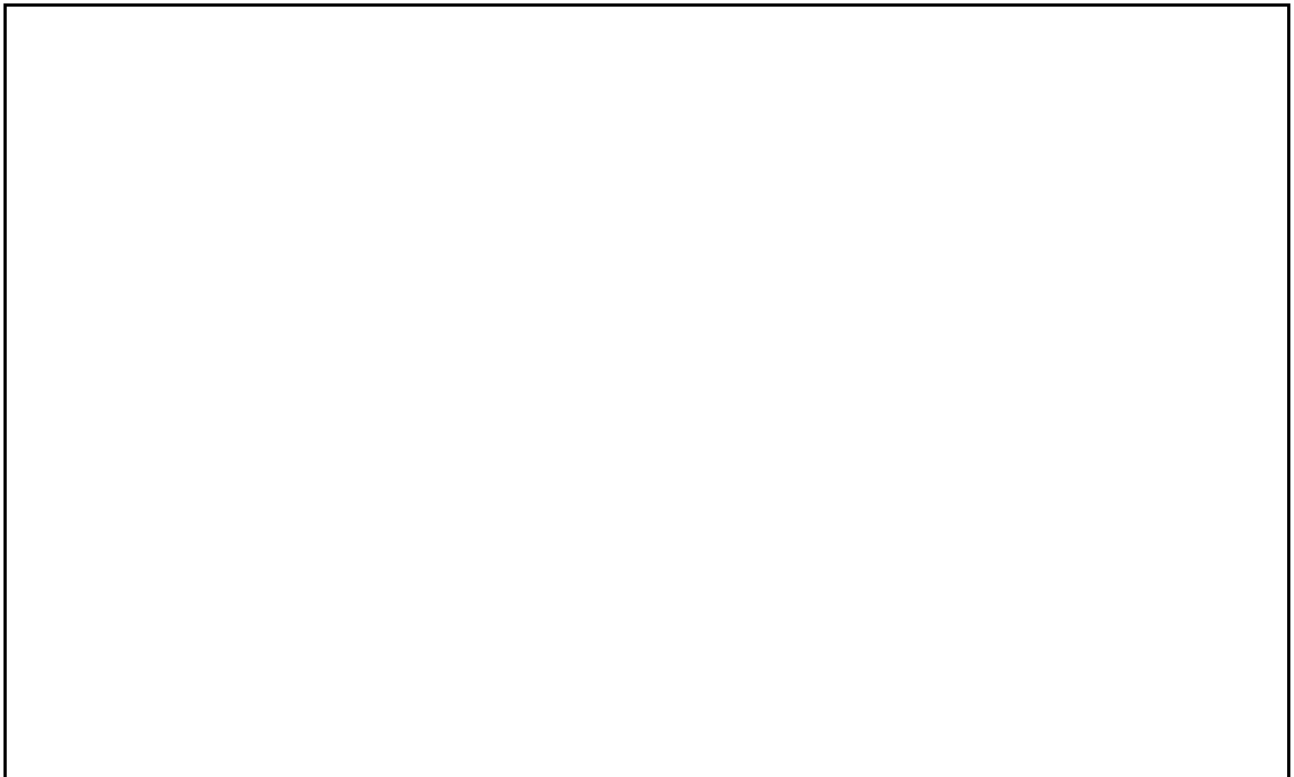
C. The Chairman of the Panel consulted the Chairman of the Intelligence Guidance Subcommittee of SIGINT relative to files that might be recommended by the Subcommittee for inclusion in a national or interagency data base on China. He found that the Subcommittee report is still under consideration within the SIGINT Committee and that the data base recommendations are very tentative. The Panel concluded that the SIGINT data base recommendations should be examined after the report is approved and a decision then made about including files in COINS, utilizing the criteria here recommended.

D. The Panel recommends that the following files be included initially in the COINS Experiment:

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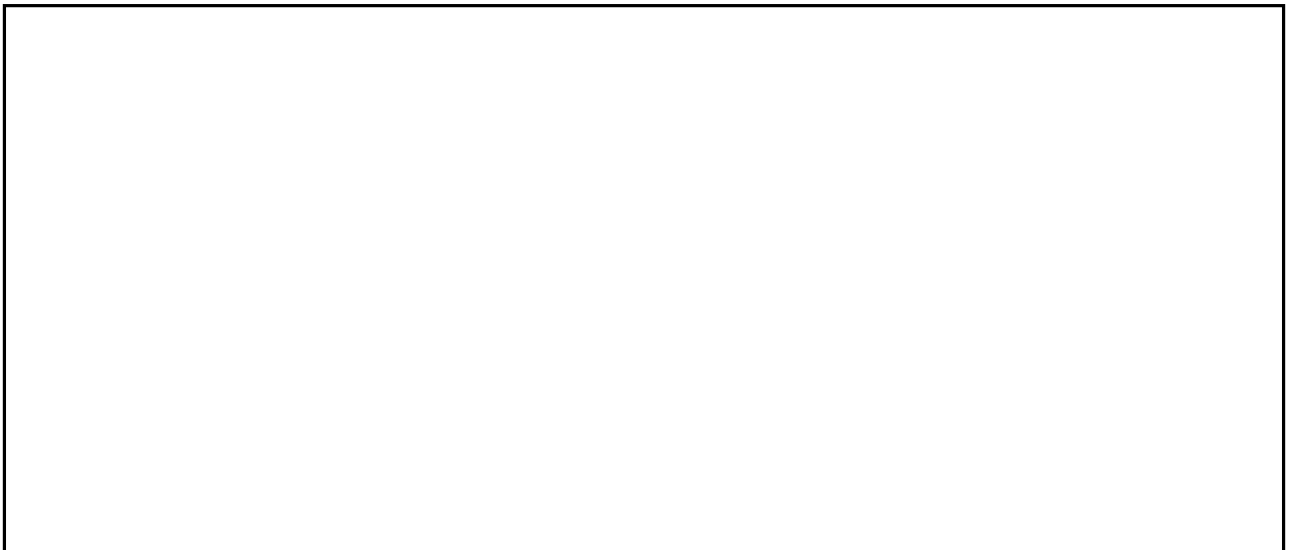
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F. The Panel concluded that the data elements presently contained in the recommended files should be retained for the COINS Experiment. The sponsoring organizations had, in most cases, structured the files to meet the requirements of their users. While the Panel could not validate the requirement for every data element in every file, the data elements seemed on the whole quite reasonable. The recommended files are described in more detail in Attachment 1.

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IV. File Priority.



V. Criteria for Selecting and Approving Future Files.

A. The Panel concluded that the criteria used for file selection, except ready availability in machine language, should apply to the future selections of files for the Experiment. It may be desirable to create files especially for COINS if it continues beyond the experimental stage. The Panel felt that usefulness to more than one Agency should be given the most emphasis in future selections. Wherever feasible, a survey or test of usefulness should be conducted prior to committing a file to the COINS system. 6/

B. The Panel believes strongly that standardization of data elements in the COINS files will significantly enhance their value and usability. It recommends that files which incorporate approved data element standards be given priority in the future. It further recommends that CODIB institute a vigorous data element standardization program for this purpose.

C. The Panel recognizes that agencies need to know what files of possible use to them are available in the community. The USIB File and Program Catalog System (FPCS) was designed for this purpose. The Panel recommends that this program be vigorously supported so that recommendations for future additions to COINS may be based on a knowledge of all available files in the intelligence community.

✓ The Panel assumes that files may be substituted and/or deleted if new and better files become available or if experience shows that the usefulness of existing COINS files has ended or that they do not meet the criteria listed in Para. II above.

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ATTACHMENT 1**

**DESCRIPTION OF FILES RECOMMENDED BY
CODIB PANEL ON FILES FOR USE IN COINS**

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